New Books.

The Church Restorers: a Tale, treating of Ancient and Modern Architecture and Church Decoration. By P. A. Paley, M.A., Hon. Sec. Cambridge Camden Society. Van Voorst, London: 1844.

Three years ago, when the Cambridge Camden Society had but commenced the publication of their opinions, the *Dublin Review*, a Roman catholic organ, said their position was most inconsistent, and that "the good men who were so earnestly labouring for the revival of catholic church architecture must be convinced that we must have the catholic service revived, in the first place, before any real good could possibly be accomplished." At that time they resolutely denied any such conviction, but the tendency of their views was nevertheless sufficiently apparent to all who looked beneath the surface. Now-a-days they speak out more plainly, or at all events individual members do; and when each individually says the same thing, and the society, when they do speak collectively, coincides, it would be absurd to make any distinction; even though, as in the present case, the author state carefully in his preface, "that neither his publisher, nor the society with which he is connected, can be in the remotest degree responsible for any opinions expressed in the narrative."

The little book before us is one of those which have been justly termed "engines of polemical theology." Its intention is to prove the "meanness of protestantism" (p. 3), "the desecrations and profanities of protestantism" (p. ix), "the desolation of protestantism," and to shew what "hell-hounds of destruction" (p. 62) were let loose by the Reformation — the *glorious* reformation, as the author satirically terms it; and glorious it unquestionably was, notwithstanding the excesses which disfigured it, or the sneers of a disguised jesuit. The advantage of daily mass, cressets constantly burning, incense, and holy water, is quietly hinted. He cannot hope that we "shall yet get back our monasteries" (p. 179); he urges the propriety of prayers for the dead (p. 22), and devotes several pages to induce a more unlimited belief in miraculous cures at holy fountains, and the preservation of saints' bodies "entirely incorrupt," than is at present general.

The deep chancel, the screen to separate the clergy from the laity,* the rood above it, and all the other fittings and arrangements in use when the church was Rome's, are to be introduced in our new edifices. And with these fittings, Mr. Paley does not blink it, the rites and ceremonies in accordance with them are to be restored also. He says (p. 190), "In Christian architecture, we find a definite use for every single part of a secular as well as of a religious edifice. Now the question is this; can we retain the form, irrespective of the use, without violating the fundamental principles of architecture?" and then he answers unequivocally, "*Clearly we cannot.*"

Far be it from us to speak disrespectfully of a creed because it differs from our own (our conviction of the weakness of human judgment, of our own fallibility, would prevent us); and if this book were written by an honest Romanist, we should have little to do, perhaps, but to thank him for some zealous efforts to protect old memorials of Christian art from the injuries of time and the ignorance of men. As it is, however, we say that it is a disgrace to its author and the college to which he belongs, and denounce it as an insidious attempt (one of many, or it would not require notice) to introduce theological opinions of the most dangerous character.

Conversationslexicon für bildende Kunst. Band I. Williams and Norgate, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden: 1844.

This work promises to be a very complete encyclopædia of architecture and building, and embraces all the arts and sciences connected with them. The volume now before us, consisting of 640 closely-printed pages profusely illustrated, is occupied solely by letter A, and contains some able articles on Grecian and Egyptian art (*Aeginetische kunst; Aegyptische kunst*), acoustics (*Akustik*), &c., &c. When it is further advanced, we shall examine it more carefully, and transfer to our pages some of the information it contains.

To such of our readers as are acquainted with the language in which it is written, we do not hesitate to recommend the book itself. A knowledge of German, by the way, has become almost indispensable to architects, in consequence of the numerous excellent works relating to their art which have been recently published in that tongue. Architectural students who wisely seek to diversify their evening studies, cannot do better than apply themselves vigorously to it. Recreation may be found in change of labour.

Companion to the Almanac for 1845. Charles Knight, London.

The "British Almanac" for the new year, published by that able and enterprising caterer

GRESHAM'S TOMB.

METROPOLIS IMPROVEMENTS.

(From the 21st Woods and Forests' Report, not yet Published.)

In the several lines of improvement authorized by the Acts 3 & 4 Vict., cap. 87, and 4 Vict., cap. 13, we have, since the dates of those Acts respectively, completed purchases to the amount in the whole of 457,844*l.* 15s 10d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount in the whole of 191,617*l.* 15s. 10d.; and besides these, the purchases now remaining to be made in order to clear the whole of the ground required for completing the several lines of improvement, it is estimated will cost the further sum of 54,256*l.* 3s., or thereabout, viz.:—

1. In the line from Oxford-street to Holborn we have completed the purchases to the amount of 211,684*l.* 14s. 10d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of 56,979*l.* 3s. 4d., and besides these there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of 14,357*l.* 15s., or thereabout.

2. In the line from Bow-street to Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, we have completed purchases to the amount of 70,958*l.* 18s. 3d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of 3,000*l.* 11s. 9d., and besides these there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of 17,565*l.*, or thereabout.

3. In the line from the London Docks to Spitalfields Church, we have completed purchases to the amount of 96,742*l.* 16s. 11d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of 30,286*l.* 8s. 7d., and besides these there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of 6,740*l.*, or thereabout.

4. In the line from Coventry-street to Longacre we have completed purchases to the amount of 77,078*l.* 5s. 10d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of 89,202*l.* 12s. 2d., and besides these there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of 8,097*l.* 19s., or thereabout.

5. In the line from East Smithfield to Rosemary-lane we have completed purchases to the amount of 1,420*l.*, and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of 12,200*l.*, and besides these there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of 7,252*l.*, or thereabout.

By a statement of receipts and expenditure in respect of monies applicable to these improvements, it appears that of the sum of 500,000*l.* mentioned in our nineteenth report to have been borrowed of the Equitable Assurance Company for the purposes of these improvements, upon the security of certain portions of the land revenue of the crown in the county of Middlesex, and of monies arisen from interest on exchequer-bills and profit on the purchase and sale of those bills, in which part of that loan was temporarily invested, from the sales of old materials, and from rents of property purchased for the purpose of these improvements, there remained a balance of 1,420*l.* 6s. 6½d.

These funds being, as will be seen by the statement above-mentioned, nearly expended, we are taking measures for obtaining a further loan of 250,000*l.*, which, we find, it will be necessary to raise for the purpose of making the several remaining purchases requisite for the completion of these improvements.

Tollington Park New Church, Hornsey.—The trustees of the Metropolis Churches Fund have contributed 1,000*l.* towards the erection of this church; the Marquis of Northampton has intimated his intention of contributing 500*l.*, and the Rev. Mr. Vent has presented 200*l.*

West London Railway.—The London and Birmingham Railway Company has agreed to pay the existing liabilities of the West London Railway Company, amounting to 60,000*l.*, and to allow the shareholders one-fourth of the gross proceeds arising from the traffic on the railway and Kensington Canal. Application will be made to Parliament when it meets, for powers to extend the line to the Thames and to Knightsbridge. In its present incomplete state this railway has seemed to those who were ignorant of its real purpose a fit subject for ridicule. There can be little doubt that, when fully carried out, so as to give to the Great Western and the Birmingham a west-end terminus, and connect both these lines with the Thames, shares in it will become first-rate property.

* "Do we not instinctively feel that while the nave is, as it were, the vestibule, the chancel is the palace of the Great King" (reserved solely for the clergy?). "The chancel is the choir of the angels, the church triumphant, the Holy of Holies."—p. 105.